

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

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E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:PFOR, MOPS, AO, SF

SUBJECT:CURRENT FOREIGN RELATIONS: ISSUE NUMBER 5,
FEBRUARY 4, 1976

1. THE FOLLOWING IS AF CONTRIBUTION TO ISSUE NUMBER 5
OF CURRENT FOREIGN RELATIONS FOR POST INFORMATION. FULL
TEXT OF CFR BEING POUCHED PER REGULAR SCHEDULES.

2. BEGIN QUOTE:

AF - ANGOLA UPDATE (SECRET)

FNLA AND UNITA FORCES REMAIN ON THE DEFENSIVE WITH LITTLE
IMMEDIATE PROSPECT FOR STOPPING THE MPLA/CUBAN JUGGER-
NAUT. FNLA NOW MAINTAINS ONLY A TOEHOLD IN NORTHERN
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ANGOLA ALONG THE ZAIRE BORDER. A COMPLETE ROUT WAS

NARROWLY AVOIDED DUE TO THE STIFFENING PROVIDED BY RECENT INFLEXES OF MERCENARIES AND TO THE SHIFTING OF CUBAN ATTENTION SOUTHWARD. IN THE SOUTH, UNITA HAS GIVEN GROUND BUT HAS NOT YET BROKEN. IT STILL HOLDS THE FNLA/UNITA CAPITAL, HUAMBO, ALTHOUGH THE GOVERNMENT WAS EVACUATED LAST WEEK AS A PRECAUTIONARY MEASURE. LOBITO, KEY PORT AND TERMINUS OF THE BENGUELA RAILROAD, AND LUSO,

AN EASTERN RAIL JUNCTION, ARE ALSO STILL IN UNITA HANDS. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT UNITA WILL LONG BE ABLE TO HOLD OFF THE CUBAN ADVANCE, BUT THE VASTNESS OF THE CENTRAL, SOUTHERN AND EASTERN REGIONS OF ANGOLA NOW IN UNITA HANDS WILL PRECLUDE A COMPLETE CONVENTIONAL MPLA/CUBAN VICTORY FOR SOME TIME. IN SUCH AN EVENT, WE BELIEVE SAVIMBI WILL REVERT TO GUERRILLA WARFARE FOR WHICH HE HAS SUPPLIES ADEQUATE FOR SEVERAL MONTHS. IN OTHER DEVELOPMENTS:

-- SIERRA LEONE AND CAMEROON HAVE BECOME THE 24TH AND 25TH OAU MEMBERSTO RECOGNIZE THE MPLA, GIVING IT THE SUPPORT OF AN ABSOLUTE MAJORITY IN THE OAU AND PROBABLY ASSURING THE SEATING OF THE MPLA AT THE OAU FOREIGN MINISTERS' CONFERENCE TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR MARCH.

-- THERE ARE HINTS THAT MOBUTU MAY BE REASSESSING HIS POSITION ON ANGOLA.

-- PROMPTED BY THE WORSENING ECONOMIC SITUATION AND REPORTS OF RAIDS BY THE CHIPENDA BRIGADE IN WESTERN ZAMBIA, PRESIDENT KAUNDA HAS DECLARED A STATE OF EMERGENCY AND PLACED HIS MILITARY FORCES ON ALERT.

-- IN SOUTH AFRICA, THE WITHDRAWAL OF ACTIVE UNITS FROM THE ANGOLAN FRONT AND THE OPENING OF PARLIAMENT HAVE LED TO THE FIRST OPEN DEBATES ON SOUTH AFRICA'S VENTURE IN ANGOLA. THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT INTRODUCED LEGISLATION IN PARLIAMENT THAT WOULD EXPAND THE PERMISSABLE SCOPE OF OPERATIONS OF ITS DEFENSE FORCES TO INCLUDE ALL OF AFRICA SOUTH OF THE EQUATOR. THIS EX POST FACTO SLEIGHT OF HAND WOULD ALSO PROTECT SAG CIVILIAN AND MILITARY PERSONNEL FROM LEGAL PROSECUTION
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ARISING FROM ACTS COMMITTED IN GOOD FAITH WHILE COMBATTING TERRORISM IN AN OPERATIONAL AREA. THIS OPERATIONAL AREA NOW APPEARS TO BE CONFINED TO A 50 MILE STRIP ALONG THE BORDER WITH NAMIBIA. MANY SOUTH AFRICAN BLACKS, ON

THE OTHER HAND, SEE THE FAILURE OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN DEFENSEFORCES TO CONTAIN THE MPLA/CUBAN DRIVE AS A BLOW TO WHITE CONFIDENCE IN SOUTH AFRICA SIMILAR IN IMPORT-

ANCE TO THAT SUFFERED BY THE RUSSIANS AFTER THEIR 1905
DEFEAT AT THE HANDS OF THE JAPANESE.

-- AS THE FIGHTING DRAWS NEARER THE BORDERS OF ZAIRE,
ZAMBIA AND SOUTH AFRICA AND AS SOVIET WEAPONS AND CUBAN
PERSONNEL CONTINUE TO POUR INTO ANGOLA, THESE THREE
BULWARKS OF OPPOSITION TO MPLA VICTORY WILL BE FACED
WITH GREATER SACRIFICES THAN THEY MAY BE WILLING TO
MAKE. KISSINGER

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